

Roy, Carrie
young husband
was a stonecutter
making curbs etc. This
was when she was expecting
her first child.

Monmouth, Ill.

Dec. 23 - 1897.

Dear Mamma,

I got your letter yesterday afternoon and will write tonight. I think it is awful good of you to ask me to come home and offer to do for me under such circumstances, and for papa to pay my fare. It does me a world of good to know you all care so much for me - but I have thought it all over & Roy & I have talked about it and I really don't think I can come - You see - Roy's work is uncertain - When it is cold they can't cut stone and when he works he has to have some one to do for him at home - Anna don't know any more about work than a cat. She never helps at all any more only once in a while shell wipe the dishes - She never gets up till 8 or nine o'clock & then goes back to bed with Harry & stays the rest of the day ^(sometimes) - They are going to tell them to look for another place. I can't do for her much longer - and then

I want that room where I am sick
and will have to have it afterward on
account of the baby. If I came home I'd
have to stay 2 months any way afterwards -
till my baby got big enough to bring home
and Roy couldn't be away so long & I
never could be without him. There
another thing I have no wrap - and
I couldn't wear my coat. I think if
papa will let you come back here it
will be much better all around - You
won't need to come before the 1st of
Feb. I don't think. Mrs. Darr got
your letter - she don't know yet whether
she can stop or not & if she does it
will be just between trains - She won't
go till sometime next week - will let
you know later on - We will send
you some little presents for Christmas
with this - I wish we were able to do
more for you but we can't this time I
made a mat just like yours & sent to
Ohio - I told them it was to put over
their family Bible. and it was for all
of them. I got Roy a pair of slippers
& paid a dollar for them - I had
out little by little ever since

you went away. I gave them to him tonight
I couldn't wait any longer - He likes
them real well - Mrs. Neely got them for
me. He was awfully surprised - He didn't
know I had any money.

I will put this away till tomorrow
It is after nine & bed time.

Friday. - I will finish this up & send it out
tonight - I don't suppose Mober will
think much of these handkerchiefs but they
got them and so they'll have to go.

Did you get anything for Bert & Mate?
I didn't for I just couldn't.

Write soon -

With love to All
Barry -